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*CLEAR Act Creates New Safety Standards, Ensure Oil Industry Takes Full Responsibility For Cleaning Up, Restoring the Gulf*

(WASHINGTON, DC) -Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-03) today urged colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to passed legislation that will make sure that BP - not American taxpayers - take full responsibility for the economic and environmental damage caused by the Gulf oils spill.

The CLEAR Act - which is being debated today in the House - will create new safety measures, hold the oil industry fully responsible for the cleanup costs of the BP spill, strengthen oversight of oil drilling and restore the Gulf Coast.

**"Even pre-schoolers know when you make a mess, it's your responsibility to clean it up,"** Carnahan said. **"Taxpayers must not foot the bill for Big Oil's reckless mistakes."**

The Clear Act and other legislation passed today take steps to more effectively respond to oil spills - as well as put into place measures to prevent them from happening in the first-place by:

- Implementing strong new safety measures.
- Holding BP and the oil industry fully responsible for the cleanup costs and recovery after spills and removing the \$75 million cap on economic damages to be paid by Big Oil to families and small businesses.
- Strengthening oversight of oil drilling by dismantling the current scandal ridden agency in

charge and replacing it with 3 separate and independent entities to avoid conflicts of interests.

- Restoring the Gulf Coast and protect local residents.
- Providing taxpayer protections to make oil companies pay their fair share for drilling on public lands.
- Protecting offshore oil and gas workers who report violations or practices that endanger the public to state and federal government authorities

Last week, Carnahan called for an end of taxpayer funded subsidies for oil companies in addition to removing caps on the costs of cleanup following an oil spill. He believes there is no need to protect the largest and most profitable companies in the world from burdens that every other taxpayer faces. The End Big Oil Tax Subsidies Act of 2010, cosponsored by Carnahan, ends expensive and unnecessary subsidies that the American people provide to the world's largest and most profitable companies.

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